

Minutes
October 15, 2009
Sta-Care, Inc.
610 East Albert Street
Portage, WI
9:15 A.M.-2:15 P.M.

Members Present: Jeanne Whitish, Jerry Jones, Mark McDermid, Carl Komassa , Steve Aldridge, Renee Lesjak Bashel, Jean Beckwith, Tom Coogan;

Absent: Dan Martino, Mike Simpson

Presenters: Andy Stewart -Air Permit Program (DNR), Ed Jepsen -Air Program (DNR)

The meeting was called to order at 9:15. Steve Aldridge gave an overview of his counter-top manufacturing facility. Steve has been in business since 1978, his operation has gone through four different expansions at the Portage plant, which now is approximately 57,000 square feet. Some notables:

- Capacity to run 5-6 miles of countertop per day
- Form three different brands of laminates
- Order to delivery in four days
- Additional facilities in Pardeeville, WI and in Pana, Illinois
- Air emissions reductions have been achieved after switching from a flammable glue to a water-based glue
- Switched to a closed mold operation by developing their own machine for curing solid surface tops, as well as building many other of their own machines
- Have realized an 80% reduction in emissions
- Employees work four 10-hour days or until the work is done
- Ninety employees are currently working in three plants, reduced from 140 due to downturn in the economy

Steve and his son gave tours of the facility which included a stop at the furnace in which they use scrap material from the counter-tops to burn in the wood-burning furnace. When not using the scraps he donates the material to area farmers.

Mark McDermid – Comprehensive Environmental Assistance Initiative

After our last meeting in which Secretaries Frank (DNR) and Leinenkugel (COMM) answered questions from council members, Mark was able to speak with Sec. Frank on comprehensive environmental assistance. Sec. Frank wants to build partnerships and engage others by:

- Leverage the expertise of the council – but not by being the only voice

- Work with other businesses in the state
- DNR does not want to tell Commerce how to do things but keep both involved
- There are no funds available at this time – but keep an eye on budgets for future
- Work proactively to understand environmental issues for businesses
- Look at other areas of interest, as Dry Cleaners and Auto Body Shops were done
- Identify issues businesses are facing and have them attend meetings
- Encourage dialogue
- attend SBA regional hearings for issues presented and invite businesses to speak
- follow DNR enforcement trends – show all sides that working together works (use ERP contacts in other programs)

ACTION: Everyone should come to the next meeting with 2-3 ideas on sectors that we could establish contacts. Potential topics such as:

- **Trucking company issues/IdleFree in Watertown**
- **Land use: City, County, State coordination**
- **Ethanol Plant: What happened? Issues they face**
- **George Dreckmann: Recycling Coordinator for the City of Madison**

Tom and Renee will try to set up something with Sec. Leinenkugel to discuss these issues. Tom, Renee, Mark and Jeanne will meet in the near future to discuss a strategy/plan of action. This workgroup will formulate questions for council members to discuss.

Andy Stewart –Air Permit Manager (DNR) Air Permit Program Update

Andy gave an overview of the DNR Air Permit updates. Andy started as an inspector, and went into compliance and is now the Section Chief of Air Permits. He has always felt strongly about technology and how it could be used to the DNR's benefit. When he began, there were three different systems, none talking to each other. The new permitting system changes all that.

Before July, 2009, facilities were billed at \$35.71 per ton based on actual emissions at the facilities in the previous calendar year. Updates to the air permit fee structure include:

- Capped at 5000 tons (\$178,550) per pollutant
- 2009 Title V major sources will continue to be billed on actual emissions
- Sources with emissions caps allowing 80% - 99.9% of a major source threshold billed at a flat rate of \$4100
- Sources not having potential to emit, or capped below 80% of a major source threshold billed at a flat fee of \$300

In 2009 the DNR wants to establish fees that better align with program costs to deal with non-major sources. Many sources with low actual emissions are seeking permit revisions to move to a lower fee category.

IT developments goals are to improved quality and service using new tools and to be consistent, with high quality data. Reduce costs by using secure web-based transactions and having tutorials, worksheets and manual available on-line, as well as allowing business to apply for a

permit quickly, and approval happens within a week. Over 300 Registration Operation Permits have been issued. Over 1000 companies have gone through the new, easier permitting process.

Steve stresses there is a fear of the DNR by small business. The air permits in the past were very complicated but has improved, most people do not know it.

Action: In the future DNR will seek small business input to raise fees. The construction permitting fees will be increasing. Governor's budget on non major sources potentially will be working on non-expiring permits and rules will need to be made.

Ed Jepsen- DNR Air Program

Ed gave an overview of the climate change initiatives. Environmental studies on greenhouse gases (GHG) and how it affects environment, air quality – specifically air mitigation.

Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) is primarily the cause of global warming followed by Methane, then Nitrous Oxide. Petroleum, coal, natural gas and cement production are all leaders in global fossil carbon emissions. In Wisconsin, electric utilities account for 43.1% of GHG emissions, followed by transportation (28.8%), industrial emissions and agriculture (10.9%).

The governor formed a task force to take charge of global warming. The task force is tasked with presenting viable, actionable policy recommendations to reduce GHG, to grow WI economy and reduce GHG emissions. The task force will also recommend no-regret short and long-term reduction goals. Work groups included Carbon Cap & Trade, Electric Generation, Conservation & Energy Efficiency, Forestry/Agriculture, Industry and Transportation. Benchmarks are:

- By 2015 – Stabilize emissions at 2005 levels
- By 2020 – 20% below 2005 levels
- By 2050 – 75% below 2005 levels

Currently, recommendations are being drafted into proposed state legislation.

Recommendations include, but are not limited to:

- Aggressive expansion of energy efficiency and conservation
- More production and use of Renewable fuels
- Reduce vehicle emissions
- Improve neighborhoods developments
- Cap and Trade

Ed pointed out that there is no silver bullet – reductions are needed from all areas. Currently 2/3 of the energy we produce goes up in the air (i.e., through smoke stacks).

Ed expects early actions by agencies and possible executive orders. Deliberations are occurring now to consider how to most effectively implement these recommendations. Federal legislation and regional initiatives are ongoing. DNR staff has been reviewing EPA rules to assess their effectiveness, value to Wisconsin and the consistency with other federal and state rules.

Who reports emissions? Those sources with 100,000 tons of CO₂/year must report, and many sources under 100,000 tons are reporting. Pleasant Prairie Power Plant is 1/10 of emissions in WI.

The challenge ahead will be:

- How to innovate and grow the economy?
- What are the obstacles and what are the opportunities?
- How to develop and encourage leaders?

SBCAAP/SBEC Projects and Updates

Tom passed around the Midwest Clean Diesel Leadership Award plaque which was given to the WI Diesel Truck Idling Reduction Grant Program for being a model for other states to follow in reducing air emissions and fuel consumption.

The grant program is currently accepting applications until October 23, 2009. There are not a lot of applications at this time, but more are expected.

Renee explained the rules updates went by and a chance to help rule writers understand the small business impact of these rules was missed. In the future we would like to do a better job in getting ahead of the rule writing by trying to ask the right questions to get changes that make sense.

Tom and Renee will be attending the Federation of Environmental Technologists (FET) Annual Conference coming next week in Pewaukee.

FET Air Update Seminars will be held in late January or early February.

Drycleaners and Gasoline Dispensing Facility calendars are being updated and will be ready by December.

Next Meeting - March 3, 2010